

THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

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NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, &c.

The reiterated recommendations of the President of the United States, on the subject of a National University, are calculated to command the serious consideration of Congress. Hitherto they seem to have been regarded merely as the suggestions of a man who made them without reflection, and whose sole ambition was to propose a measure without a view to its ultimate success. Some efforts have, indeed, been made to back these recommendations; but they have invariably proved abortive, feeble, and unavailing.

It must be a matter of astonishment, that an institution like this, so useful in itself, should not have excited greater attention from its intrinsic advantages, and the innumerable benefits it is calculated to produce. Does not Congress perceive that by establishing a National University, they are giving literature and science to the United States, that they are promoting the advancement of learning and the extension of the arts, that they are calling from obscurity and oblivion the native genius of their country, diffusing the light of science, the principles of liberty and of moral and political truth, and giving to their country a literary reputation and character it has not yet attained, and perhaps never will attain without such an institution? Cannot Congress see that from this concentration of the rays of science will emanate all that is intellectually and morally excellent; and that they are bringing into light and rendering useful the natural productions of America that have not yet been discovered, analyzed, and developed. In a territory like ours, so vast, so expansive, so diversified, there must be a head to direct the march of science and the progress of usefulness. In a territory so varied and extended, how great a portion of its mineralogy, botany, and zoology, is yet undescribed, or lies hid in the bowels of the earth and in the bosom of obscurity. Can any one, then, question the usefulness of an institution that will enlarge our views on these subjects, extend the sphere of science, and diffuse a love of letters and the arts? It is much to be regretted that from our connections abroad, and the diversity of our habits, manners, and inclinations at home, we seem to have a powerful tendency to diverge from the centre of union, and to entertain those local jealousies that are so inimical to political and moral harmony. The tendency of this dangerous sentiment should be counteracted as soon as possible; and for this end nothing will be more effectual than the operation of literature and science.

These are, in their nature, fraternal and harmonizing; they soothe the heart, soften the impetuous passions of our nature, promote the freedom of social intercourse, and beget sentiments of friendship and philanthropy. The youths of America, assembled from the different sections of the United States, in one common seminary, and mingled indiscriminately together, will soon be enabled to see the absurdity of their prejudices, form attachments which death may alone terminate; and by diffusing those feelings wherever they go, will check the growth and progress of those jealousies from which so much evil might ultimately result. In this institution might be educated men who could explore the hitherto undiscovered portions of our country, and collect all that is rare, valuable, or unknown in American mineralogy and botany; and thus add to the health, to the comfort, and to the happiness of society. Here too the future statesman might acquire an intimate knowledge of the principles of political science, by investigating the theory and contemplating the operations of government. In short, there is no species of knowledge that could not be here cultivated and diffused: while, at the same time, the nation would acquire a character for its literature, and science, that would add an additional lustre to its name. The advantages that would result from the establishment of such a seminary here, are obvious. We shall but briefly enumerate them. 1st. Being under the eye of government, the professors would be more vigilant and the students more emulous to excel, and more solicitous to acquire a proficiency in the sciences. 2d. The theory of the political science would be illustrated and exemplified by an attendance to the political discussions of Congress, the operations of government, and the knowledge of our own institutions and general polity would be more easily and minutely attained. 3d. The fascinating art of oratory and elocution could be more successfully taught, by occasionally uniting to the theory the specimens of congressional and forensic eloquence, so often exhibited at the bar of the supreme court, and in both houses of Congress. 4th. To acquire a knowledge of jurisprudence no spot could furnish a better school. The highest judiciary tribunal in the United States sits at this place; a tribunal whose decisions are as luminous as they are solid and useful, and whose knowledge and research are co-extensive with their genius and their literary taste. What mind would not derive improvement from an attendance in such a court as this? 5th. Gentlemen coming

to Congress would have an opportunity to see their children, or those of their friends, every year at least, mark their progress, and stimulate them to fresh exertion. These are a few of the advantages that must result from such an institution founded at this place. Let it then be organized as speedily as possible; let a man of science and experience in the constitution of public seminaries, be authorized to devise a useful plan of internal police, &c. and let the work be commenced without delay.

It will be recollected that government own a great number of lots in this city, which may be given to the institution, and that general Washington bequeathed 50 Potomac shares to aid in the accomplishment of this desirable object. This property, judiciously managed, would relieve Congress from the necessity of great annual appropriations, and be a fund of itself almost sufficient to maintain the institution.

The necessity of establishing a military academy here, must be also obvious. The arguments urged in favour of the location of the national university in this city, will apply with equal propriety to that of an academy. Virginia and Maryland have as great claims as any other two States to such an establishment, and no situation could be more convenient than Washington. We wish to see every thing of this nature here; we think it is due to the nation to fix them at this place, that they may be under the immediate eye of government, by which they are patronized and supported. This district can furnish more students than can be accommodated in the academy at West-Point; many have not been able to obtain admittance; another here would accommodate those of the district and the adjoining States, who wished to devote their lives to the profession of arms and the service of their country. As this must be the permanent seat of the national legislature, it would be desirable to have the mint also established here; and, connected with the Congressional library, a national museum on an extensive scale. Not only Congress, but enlightened travellers would then find a wide range of amusement and edification that would fill up profitably and interestingly the vacancies of business, and charm away the tedium of leisure.

Since the above has been in type, we have received and herewith publish the report of the committee on the subject of a national university. We earnestly hope Congress may be equally disposed to aid this valuable institution. The building, however, must be much larger than the one contemplated by the committee; and the whole internal arrangement, on a more extensive scale. This, however, may be easily accomplished, by authorizing the President to employ a certain num-

ber of scientific men, who shall be empowered to issue proposals for the construction of the edifice; select the best plan presented, and form a system of internal government and regulation, that shall be co-extensive with the design and importance of the institution.

TOPOGRAPHICAL.

To the Editor of the National Register.

Detroit, 15th Nov. 1816.

SIR,—As our government has lately established a military post at Green Bay, on lake Michigan, a description of that place, its inhabitants, and their manners, may, perhaps, be acceptable to some of our fellow-citizens in the interior. Should you think it the case, you are at liberty to publish in your Register the following extract of a letter from major C. Gratiot, of the corps of engineers, to capt. H. Whiting, aid to major gen. Macomb, dated at Green Bay, 2d September, 1816.

Yours, &c. P. L.

"It is unnecessary to say any thing of our voyage from Detroit to Mackinac, which was, like others, very tedious and uninteresting. From Mackinac we proceeded to this place, *en force*, having not less than four vessels in company, containing most of col. Miller's command with us, and the colonel himself, heading the expedition. His motives for so doing have, no doubt, ere this, been communicated to the general, and consequently to you: a repetition, therefore, is unnecessary. Our progress onward was retarded only from a want of knowledge of the waters we had to navigate; which, however, we found easy and unattended with difficulties. The S. E. coast of the bay is elevated and rocky, furnishing fine harbour for vessels. The lands receding from the shore are beautiful and covered with fine overgrown forests of maple, oak, birch and white walnut trees.

"When the vessels came to anchor at the bar, six miles below the mouth of the river, colonels Miller and Boyer, and myself proceeded up the river to examine the country. On our arrival at the first settlement we were hailed and saluted by such of the militia as could be assembled in time to receive us. This party was headed by justice L. Reaume, civil officer for the county of St. Clair, commissioned by the governor of Indiana: he addressed col. Miller for and in behalf of the people under his jurisdiction, expressing the satisfaction they felt in seeing the American flag set up in their country, and hoped that, for the future, it would never cease of waving over their heads. After returning the judge's civilities by discharges of musketry and treating his *ragamuffins* with some liquor, we departed to pay a visit to Thomas, the Indian chief of the Manominies, whose village con-

sists of three large lodges, and directly opposite to where the judge had paid us such marked attention. On our landing we were again saluted as we had been by the militia, and beckoned to enter the council lodge. On our entrance Thomas rose from among about sixty Indians, and met us half way from where he was sitting, presenting his hand to each of us, complimenting us at the same time on our safe arrival, and courteously pointed to clean mats prepared for the occasion where we were to set down. Col. Boyer, who, while at Mackinac, had received a pipe of invitation from him, produced it, lighted it, and presented it to smoke to the chief, his young men and visitors. That ceremony being over, the colonel informed Thomas of the object of his mission to this country, and assured the Indians, through him, that *the garrison to be built was for the purpose of protecting them and preventing bad birds from hovering among them in future.* The talk was well received by the Indians, and answered immediately through Thomas, who acquiesced in every proposition made on our part, and expressed great satisfaction at what had been told him.

"From thence we descended to where the French had their garrison. It is about one mile from the mouth of the river, on its left bank. The position is admirably calculated for a military post, it is not unlike Spring Well, being a sand mound of considerable extent; to the north it is joined by a ridge, which almost imperceptibly to the eye descends for two or three miles, at the distance of 1,010 yards. I found, on calculation, that we were $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet lower than the mound; this ridge being the highest land within three or four miles of it, determined us, at once, to occupy it. It is within one mile from the mouth of the river, and commands it completely. On its rear is a cranberry marsh of half a mile in extent; in front, the river, with low lands on its opposite shore; and above an extensive *prairie*, some few feet lower than said mound.

"The country bordering on this bay and Fox river far exceeds in beauty any account given of it. The lands, on entering the river, are low and marshy, and from the extent of the marshes would indicate an unhealthy country, which, by no means, is the case: the inhabitants are remarkably robust and healthy, and do not recollect to have seen among them one single case of those diseases so common to countries similarly situated. Our troops, though only half a mile from those marshes, and encamped immediately on the cranberry marsh before mentioned, are, if any thing, healthier than the men at Michilimackinac. The banks of the river continue low for two or three miles up, when they gradually rise 80 or 100 feet above the water, from whence commence im-

mence forests of pine, oak and maple. The whole of the river upwards is said to be of the same nature. To this may be attributed the healthiness of the country, the S. W. winds prevailing throughout the summer, and blowing immediately down the valley formed by the river, and meeting no pools of stagnant water in its course, must necessarily be pure; and when any other winds prevail (which is seldom the case) they, of course, blow towards the settlements the noxious exhalations from those marshes; but these winds being of a short duration, and the marshes small, those vapours cannot contaminate the air long enough, and to such a degree as to affect the health of those who breathe it.

"The settlement in this place consists of forty-one families, who are on small farms wretchedly cultivated; notwithstanding which, they gather considerable crops of wheat, corn, peas and potatoes; and were it not for the almost continual encroachments of the Indians, would be more than sufficient for their consumption. As it is, we found them literally starving with fine promising crops around them. These people excel in their gardens, each inhabitant having one of the finest adjacent to his house. The culture of fruit trees has not as yet been attempted by any of them. They hold officers of government in highest possible respect, and would go any length to oblige one, and think themselves much honoured when called upon for any service. They are extremely polite and courteous, strictly preserving the manners of their forefathers, the French. The polished refinements of society have not as yet found their way among these children, (I may say of nature) though they possess a correct idea of propriety, still their innocence, and ignorance of the world often make them the dupes of the designing.

"Their women, the nine tenths of whom are of Indian origin, are modestly diffident and dignified in their manners, notwithstanding the shyness and taste they have imbibed from their mothers. Their costume is grotesque, wearing printed callico short gowns, petticoats of strouds, and moccasins. The men, with few exceptions, have partly adopted the Indians in their manners: their dress is that worn by the French people of Detroit."

"Before the war this country was well stocked with cattle and horses; some of the inhabitants having from 120 to 150 head of cattle, and 40 or 50 horses—they then had plenty and lived well, but times have most horribly changed with them: now their cattle and horses are mostly destroyed by the Indians, and the only dependence for them and their families to subsist is few milk cows and the crops growing.

"The Indians, though peaceable, have acquired such habits during the war that, notwithstanding

our presence, they continue to molest these poor inhabitants: Within the last week they killed wantonly three oxen and two horses. A poor fellow, the day before yesterday, who had been grossly insulted in his house by a drunken Indian, was badly shot by the same rascal a few minutes afterwards for having forced him out of his house. Another Indian, exasperated at the act, snatched up a gun to kill the villain, but was prevented by the wounded Frenchman, who represented that it would be committing him were he to execute his purpose, that there were people sent to the country to punish all such offences, and they would do him ample justice. The fellow was then brought down to the Indian agent, who has turned him over to col. Chambers for safe keeping. I wanted, however, that he should be kept in our camp, and allowed to roam at large, which the colonel, very correctly refused doing, unless he could be permitted to adopt such measures as would insure his detention, and remove every possible chance of escape, which was (as I thought) reluctantly granted. We now have the fellow safely chained neck and heels."

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY.

Mr. *Wilde* of Geo. from the committee to whom that part of the President's Message was referred, made the following report;

"The committee of the House of Representatives, to whom was referred so much of the President's Message as relates to the subject of a National University, report to the House, as the result of their deliberations, a bill for the erection and endowment of such an institution.

The committee, pursuant to usual forms, might perhaps, without impropriety, regard this as a sufficient performance of their duty, and, after presenting the bill, without comment, have left it to find its appropriate place among others, and to receive or be denied consideration, according to the opinion entertained of its consequence and urgency.

But the number of communications relative to this subject, which, though they have received attention, seem to have escaped it because they have not been definitively acted on, may possibly expose the house to a censure more serious than that of merely neglecting the successive recommendations of several Chief Magistrates—a censure as injurious as unjust, yet not unbecoming that body to prevent, by making, as soon as possible, some disposition of a question, that ought to be determined, on account of its frequent occurrence, even though it should not otherwise be thought particularly interesting.

No room will then be afforded for even supposing the national legislature indifferent to an object, admitted by most persons to be desirable, and by many believed to be now both practicable and expedient; justice will be done to the representatives of the people without detracting any thing from executive merit; that confidence, which is the chief strength of our government, will be pre-

served, and public opinion, enlightened by discussion, expressing itself at length decisively on the proposed measure, will either require its adoption, sanction its rejection, or acquiesce in its postponement, until the necessity becomes more obvious, or the difficulties that oppose it can be more easily removed.

Your committee, therefore, have ventured to suggest some of the reasons which recommend the present as a favorable time for investigating, and perhaps also for adopting the plan they have proposed.

Among these, the prosperous state of our finances, leaving a large unappropriated surplus, the probability of a long continued peace, the flourishing condition of our Capital, and the facility with which a portion of the public property within it might now be advantageously disposed of, so as at once to increase the convenience of the city, and support the proposed institution, may fairly be enumerated.

Besides, the information heretofore collected has enabled the committee to report at an early period, and it is believed that the present session, though inevitably a short one, will not present so many objects of great difficulty or deep interest as entirely to exclude others of a more tranquil and less obtrusive character, to which it is possible a portion of time might be profitably devoted.

The acquisition of a scientific and literary reputation, not unworthy of their naval and military renown, can never be beneath the ambition of a people, since the most durable of all glory is that of exalted intellect.

The world is still a willing captive to the spells of ancient genius; and the rivalry of modern empires will be perpetuated by their arts and their learning, the preservers of that fame which arms alone may indeed win, but can never keep.

Any measure which contributes, however remotely, to give American literature a rank and name among mankind, cannot therefore be regarded with indifference by our citizens; and every effort towards that end must be witnessed at the present moment with unusual satisfaction, since it will present the interesting spectacle of a young nation bending its whole strength to the pursuit of true greatness, and anxious to emulate all that is amiable in peace as well as all that is noble in war.

That the institution contemplated will have a happy influence on the harmony of our country and the unity of our national character, has been often supposed, and your committee feel inclined to anticipate effects no less happy from its operation on the genius of our people.

If American invention, unassisted as it has been, already excites the astonishment of Europe, what may not be expected from it when aided and encouraged? And why should not aid and encouragement be yielded by institutions like the present, founded and endowed by the munificence of the state. In our own day we have seen them work wonders in physical science, even when directed by a stern, jealous, and exacting government, which, while training the mind to be quick, dexterous and daring, darkened its vision and circumscribed its flight. It is here alone they would be potent where no depth could be hidden from its glance, no height forbidden to its wing?

But your committee, fearful of exhausting your patience, forbear to extend this report by arguments which it is easier to multiply than to with-

hold: for the same reason they refrain from answering objections which could not be stated without injury, since, in replying to them, force and perspicuity must be sacrificed to conciseness. Nor can such a course be required where it is intended merely to present a general result, not the particular process of reasoning by which that result has been obtained. Your committee, however, desire it to be understood that they have not declined examining any objection which occurred to them, and though some have been found which it must be confessed are not without difficulty, all are thought capable of a satisfactory answer.

Under a conviction, therefore, that the means are ample, the end desirable, the object fairly within the legislative powers of Congress, and the time a favorable one, your committee recommend the establishment of a National University, and have directed their chairman to submit a bill and estimates for that purpose."

Estimate of the value of Lots and Squares belonging to the United States, as furnished by a communication from the Superintendent of the city.

4000 building lots of 5265 square feet each, and about 2000 feet front on the waters of the Potomac river, Eastern Branch, valued at

\$750,000

Squares 1 to 6, proposed to be laid off into building lots, containing, in the whole, 816,000 square feet, or 155 standard lots, valued at

200,000

But the latter amount is the only one which it is supposed could be speedily realized.

Estimate of the expense of buildings for the National University, on a plan susceptible of extension, but calculated for the present to answer for 160 persons.

Buildings (which it was supposed last year might be completed in the year 1818.)

1. Habitations for the principal and six professors, two buildings, 75 by 54 feet, \$30,000 each,

\$60,000

2. Lodgings for 160 students, refectory, (temporarily in the basement story) fuel and provision, cellars, servants' apartments, 265 feet by 46,

75,000

3. Lecture rooms at the S. W. angle, steward's apartment, &c. 75 feet square,

45,000

4. Planting and enclosing,

20,000

\$200,000

SOUTH-CAROLINA LEGISLATURE.

On Monday the 25th ult. a very large majority of the members of both branches of the legislature assembled. *J. R. Pringle*, was unanimously chosen President of the Senate.

In the House of Representatives, *Thos. Bennet* was elected Speaker. A committee was appointed to wait on his excellency the Governor, to inform him the house was organized, and ready to receive his communications.

On Tuesday, 26th Nov. the following communication was made by the Governor to both branches of the legislature:

To the Senate and House of Representatives.

FELLOW CITIZENS,—All the measures which, by the proceedings of your last session, devolved on the executive, have, so far they depended on him, been accomplished. When the legislative will was expressed or clearly indicated, it has been strictly obeyed; and where the compliance with your wishes involved the exercise of discretion, it has

been used in a manner that I trust will prove satisfactory. In this respect the papers numbered from 1 to 12, inclusive, and herewith transmitted, will place in your possession all the information that can be desired.

The papers numbered 1, 2, and 3, show the terms of the convention negotiated at Washington with the chiefs of the Cherokee Indians, and of its final ratification by the nation: although the latter was encumbered with certain reservations in favour of individuals, which lessened, in some measure, the importance of the acquisition in a pecuniary point of view, yet these were not considered so material as to prevent any acceptance of the treaty; which has accordingly received my final sanction. A prompt and effectual change in the state of things in that territory was essential to the good order of society; and in this respect the acquisition of jurisdiction was considered more important than the compensation given. When to this is added the fee simple of the soil, it is not doubted that my proceedings in relation to this business will meet your approbation. The disposition of the general government, on this subject, and the cheerful personal assistance of the late secretary for the department of war, have obtained for us a relinquishment of title; which it is believed could not otherwise have been accomplished. Legal provisions will become necessary to extend to the territory thus acquired our judicial and militia systems, and to provide for the various circumstances which belong to it. Among these you will not omit regulations for disposing of the lands, and advantageously investing the proceeds. Perhaps no appropriation of the latter will be more beneficial to the state at large, than the creation of a permanent fund for the maintenance of the free schools. Such a course will be no less delightful to the mind of the philanthropist than consonant to the liberal policy and enlightened views of the legislature. In thus securing to the poor the advantages of education, and putting this their precious inheritance beyond the reach of temporary feelings or mutuable councils, the character of the state will be established, and the general welfare promoted.

The papers 4, 5, 6, exhibit the correspondence concerning the arms due to this State from the general government. The quota of South-Carolina, according to the apportionment made at the department of war, has been received. This is considered fair, and, as far as it goes, satisfactory; but the means provided by congress on this subject fall greatly short of the wishes and expectations of the State. It is no longer a speculative opinion; for experience teaches us that our liberties and institutions depend principally on the militia for defence. Science in the art, and discipline in the practice of war, are useless without arms; and even arms become dangerous, unless a preponderating portion of them be in the hands of virtue and patriotism—the militia, therefore, are the safe deposit for them. But while there are no new armories erecting, and no extended enterprise for their manufacture commenced, we shall look in vain for the accomplishment of our wishes to those of Springfield and Harper's Ferry. The mere appropriation of a sum of money, very small compared with the object to be effected, notwithstanding its inapplicability to any other purpose, is better calculated to betray our safety and to disappoint our hopes, than "to arm the whole body of the militia." All the branches of the general

government are so justly influenced by public sentiment, that I cannot refrain from recommending a continued expression of our wishes, (instruction to the State delegation in congress may be happily resorted to) until it shall produce measures corresponding to the vital importance and magnitude of this object.

The paper 7 is a copy of the instructions prepared for George Blackburn, Esq. under the authority of the appropriation "for procuring a map of this State." Your proceedings on this subject were considered as pointing to this gentleman as the person to be employed, notwithstanding my discretion was, in form, not limited. Such an indication, however, was not necessary to procure for him the appointment; his genius and acquirements warranted the choice—his zeal and industry, thus far, have justified our confidence. He has been directed to attend at Columbia, during the two first weeks of your session, to give such information and explanations as may be required, touching the progress and probable accomplishment of the work. His journal, also, if required, shall be subject to your examination.

The appropriation for military books, to be furnished to the militia officers of this state, has been more than sufficient for the purpose. They have been procured and distributed. This measure will not fail to produce all the benefits anticipated from it. Its effects were to be seen during the reviews of the present year, wherever the distribution of the books had been made in time for the officers to study them. The disposition manifested throughout the state, and the emulation existing in almost every regiment, afford the most gratifying proofs of the correctness of our measures concerning the militia. A mild but steady execution of the laws will, in a very few years, elevate them, at least, to the level of the best in the Union.

The American fire has proved more deadly in battle than any other; probably because we have been from our earliest years familiar with the use of fire arms. The inducements, however, to such an use are fast decreasing. The rapid progress of agriculture, accelerated by the uncommon rewards of labour, is, by constant, though almost imperceptible degrees, impairing the efficiency of our arms, by lessening the objects for their use. As the forests yield to the axe, the game which they contained disappears, and with them much of the excitement to a dexterous use of arms. Whether these have so far diminished as to require other incentives for the preservation of our skill in gunnery, you best can determine; but, surely, an honourable reward to such individuals as may from time to time, distinguish themselves in the regiments, by the precision of their fire, would be productive of good, as it might assist to prolong the accuracy, and of course the efficiency, of our fire. The man who knows and feels that he is superior to his enemy, is very apt to meet him as the militia met the British at New Orleans. This knowledge always enables the soldier to perform wonders. Our measures should be, at least, as much addressed to the moral as the physical energies of the people; with all armies equal reliance may be placed on the former as the latter, and with the militia infinitely greater.

The 16th section of the act of the 16th of December last, requires to be altered or explained so as to operate alike on all officers of uniform companies of cavalry, artillery, infantry, and riflemen; as well of those which were raised prior to the

passage of that law, as those subsequent. However contrary it may be to what is believed was the intention of the legislature, it is contended, that the section permits the former to hold their commissions, while it deprives the latter of theirs, when they shall fail to have in uniform a certain number of rank and file. This is too unjust a distinction, growing out of the accidental wording of the section, to be permitted to remain.

Much inconvenience results from the regiments having no permanent place of rendezvous. I recommend that an appropriation be made for each, to be expended at the discretion of the major-general, brigadier general, and for each regiment its particular commandant, as commissioners, to provide a muster field for each. If colonels were authorized to appoint sutlers, who, on the days of general musters, should be protected in the exclusive right to settle at such places, it would in many, if not in every instance, procure the muster field wanted, without the expenditure of the sum appropriated. Should an increase of population induce an increase of the number of regiments and therefore a change of the places of rendezvous, it is believed that the appreciation of the value of land will be such as to prevent any loss in the purchase. At all events the inconveniences, from a variety of causes, have become such as to require the interference of the legislature; which is called for, not more by the good it may produce, than the improving state of those for whom it is intended to provide.

Your attention is recommended to a review of the fiscal laws of the State, at least so far as to provide against an evil which may arise, and which will be suggested. Appropriations of money remain as credits in the treasury, payable on account of the specific objects for which they were granted, until expressly repealed by law. Although our financial system has been materially changed since the establishment of the bank of the State, and although the balances in the treasury on the second of April, in each year, are directed to be paid over to the bank on account of capital; yet, the bank being bound by its charter to honour the drafts made upon it for appropriations, all unexpended balances, not repealed by the legislature, may be called for at any time. It may be very proper to grant money for specific objects this year, which the legislature might find it expedient to refuse a few years hence. If no injury has been suffered by the State under such a system, it argues much more in favour of its public agents than of the system itself. There are now, subject to the governor's draft, large balances of appropriations, made during the late war, for military purposes; also, more than twelve thousand dollars of the contingent fund remain unexpended.

The resignation of John Taylor, Esq. late a senator in Congress, herewith submitted, and marked 8, induces the necessity of electing a person to represent the State in the Senate of the United States until the expiration of the term for which he was elected! as also some one to succeed to that seat on the 4th of March next. Electors of President and Vice-President of the United States are also to be chosen during your present session.

The paper 11 is a copy of a law of the State of Georgia, received from the executive of that State since your last meeting. Whether the measure which has been so long adopted by this State, in anticipation of such a law on the part of Georgia, be now the most proper to be pursued, you have

an opportunity to decide; as also, to consider maturely the expediency of commencing, on a large scale, works of internal improvement. Perhaps the topography of no State presents more inviting opportunities for improving inland navigation than our own; none have stronger inducements, and yet few have done less. The State is possessed of the most ample materials; public spirit, enterprise, perseverance, are not wanting, and nothing is required for the accomplishment of every desired object in this respect but the patronage of the legislature. Whether this shall be afforded by grants or loans of money, by becoming participants in works of public utility, or by beginning them wholly on State account, is within the reach of your wisdom to determine.

Two events have occurred during the present year which required a resort to military force. A few runaway negroes, concealing themselves in the swamp and marshes contiguous to Combahee and Ashpoo rivers, not having been interrupted in their petty plunderings for a long time, formed the nucleus, round which all the ill disposed and audacious near them gathered, until at length their robberies became too serious to be suffered with impunity. Attempts were then made to disperse them, which, either from insufficiency of number, or bad arrangement, served by their failure only to encourage a wanton destruction of property. Their force now became alarming, not less from its numbers than from the arms and ammunition with which it was supplied. The peculiar situation of the whole of that portion of our coast rendered access to them difficult, while the numerous creeks and water courses through the marshes and round the islands furnished them easy opportunities to plunder, not only the planters in open day, but the inland coasting trade also, without leaving a trace of their movements by which they could be pursued. There was but one more stage to a state of things altogether intolerable; to prevent which, I felt it my duty to use the public force and the public money. I therefore ordered colonel, now major general Wm. Youngblood, to take the necessary measures for suppressing them, and authorized him to incur the customary expenses of such an expedition. This was immediately executed. By a judicious employment of the militia under his command, he either captured or destroyed the whole body. As the amount of the expenses authorized has not yet been ascertained, and of course not paid, I ask of the legislature to put at the disposal of my successor a sum adequate to redeem my promise. The other event happened in the neighborhood of Camden. It appears that a scheme for organizing insurrection among the slaves had been for years contemplated by a few desperate characters there. They had nearly matured their plans, when a communication of them was made, in the latter part of June last, to a faithful servant, belonging to a gentleman in that neighborhood. By him I was immediately advised of the plot; whereupon I directed one of my aids, lieutenant colonel James Chesnut, to adopt such a course as would lead not only to a satisfactory knowledge of their whole project, but to its effectual prevention. His measures corresponded with my confidence. They were as successful as they were judicious. Through the instrumentality of the good servant alluded to he carried on a counter plot, by which he was enabled to procure ample testimony to convict the principals without resorting to the evidence of the

servant who made the first disclosure, and to seize upon all who were implicated before the slightest suspicion of their guilt was entertained by any one, except those engaged with him to prevent it. They were immediately delivered up to the civil authority, and have been all punished except one, whom the court pardoned.

However certain of failure every such project must ultimately prove, from the circumstances in which we now find ourselves placed, it can scarcely be doubted, that but for the loyalty of the servant mentioned, much injury would have been sustained, prior to the final destruction of those who so rashly plunged themselves into ruin. If he has saved the life of a single person, or the house of one individual from fire, for massacre and conflagration were both embraced in the project, his services to the public are so important as to form a strong claim on your generosity. He has always supported a good character, and been for a course of years entrusted with the care of a portion of his master's property. All that his master can do to better his situation, without proclaiming his case to the neighbourhood, from which he has been restrained by a promise, has already been done. Short of his freedom his reward will not be ample; and this is more becoming the legislature than any other. His name, and every circumstance connected with his case, will be fully communicated to any committee of your body, should they be required for the purpose of providing for his freedom.

These incidents admonish us to a careful revisal of our patrol system. Perhaps the agents selected for its execution are proper; but the responsibility under which they act is believed to be inadequate to a just administration of it. If the duties to be performed by these agents are to be considered of a military nature wholly, as by some they have been, no evil would result from the requiring superior officers to superintend their execution; if of a civil character, the aid of the courts of law might be successfully resorted to, by adding an additional clause to the oath administered to the grand jurors. These events, together with the occurrence of Boxley's insurrection in Virginia, induced certain inquiries of the attorney general: his letter in reply, marked 12, is laid before you for your consideration. It is not possible that your deliberations on these subjects can be concluded before that remorseless, merciless traffic, which brings among us slaves of all descriptions from other States, and which is a reproach to our morals, and an outrage to our feelings, shall press on you for correction. It is time the course of ceaseless cupidity, alike regardless of country and consequences, should be arrested: high time that our streets and highways should be freed from the crowds of suffering victims, that are constantly dragged through them, to minister to insatiable avarice. The lights of humanity; a wise policy; the prayers of the just; all require that the delightful avocations of domestic life should be no longer defiled by the presence of convicts and malefactors.

The time has passed, when all our feelings were excited in relation to the militia drafts by the general government. We then saw the efficiency of our institutions paralyzed; the public order threatened; "the veil of the temple"—of the constitution "rent in twain"—Yet the redeeming spirit of the people, without disorder or commotion, patiently struggled through the difficulty.

The period has now come, when we can deliberately, and without passion and prejudice, review the progress of events, touching this interesting subject, and decide whether it be not necessary, by timely provision, to guard against similar occurrences in future. It cannot be denied that a power ought to be lodged somewhere, competent to call out the physical force of the nation, for national emergencies. However inexpedient and dangerous it would be to strip the state governments of all authority over the militia, and vest it exclusively in the general government, it can be neither to give to this last complete power over it, for the specific purposes enumerated in the constitution. Such a power appears to be a necessary attribute of sovereignty, and essential to its preservation. Whether militia drafts were improperly withheld or not, by some of the States during the late war, is not necessary now to discuss; it is sufficient, for all good purposes, that we know contests concerning the exercise of authority ever them during a state of war, have arisen, and may again occur, not only in relation to a constitutional right to call for them, but also in the sphere in which they may be employed. Such an evil ought to be removed. This is not an affair involving party considerations at all; it is the great business of the nation to provide for the nation's safety. Whatever may be the political character of Congress it ought to have full power "to provide for the calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections, and repel invasions," to defend the sacred soil of their country, without the possibility of its being eluded by quibbling reasons or factious arguments. I therefore recommend an amendment to the constitution of the United States on this subject to your most serious deliberations.

You have again assembled, fellow citizens, under the most propitious political circumstances. The peace of the nation undisturbed; its character elevated and revered abroad; the empire of the laws perfect at home; blessed with a government instituted by the people, and administered for their benefit, which, like the atmosphere, pervades every thing, yet is no where felt; secured alike in the full exercise of our religious and our civil rights; enjoying all the happiness of legal liberty; the poor educated; the educated happy; the people virtuous and every where industrious, prosperous, and contented. That such a rich stream of blessings should be poured out to us, at a time when all the nations of the earth, with whom we have intercourse, are made to eat the bread of bitterness and sorrow, call for the most grateful and earnest thanksgivings to the great Author of every good. Under such circumstances, you have come up to the appointed house of the people, with none but dispositions faithfully to do the work of them who sent you, in which may you be so enlightened, with "that wisdom which is from above," that all your acts may advance your personal character and the public good.

DAVID R. WILLIAMS.

PENNSYLVANIA.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR TO THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

Delivered on Thursday, Dec. 3, 1816.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,

FELLOW CITIZENS.—We meet to fulfil our constitutional duties under circumstances of happiness

and promise, peculiar to us as a people. Peace, plenty and safety are within our walls, and we are invincible in the character we have acquired. Our nation has just exhibited to the world a scene of the most interesting and peculiar kind: A Chief Magistrate of the United States to serve four years has been elected, and is indebted for his election solely to his virtues, his talents, and patriotism. Such an election, and such an opportunity for a people to reward a faithful public servant, is only presented under our happy form of government. May we long enjoy it, and our children and their children's children by fidelity to principle, singleness of heart and simplicity of manners, prove themselves worthy of those who dared to proclaim our independence and our rights, and those whose valour and whose sufferings achieved such inestimable blessings.

The interesting view which our country presents in its many existing and progressing improvements, and in the inland navigation of which our State and adjoining States are susceptible, suggests to the mind as one of the best, and eventually, to Pennsylvania, most profitable improvements, a canal connecting the Lake waters in the State of New-York with the Susquehanna river. Independent of the trade from that State, which would thereby flow through our country and to our metropolis, and independent of its probably issuing in a water communication to the St. Lawrence, there would accrue numerous advantages to the inhabitants on the wide spreading Susquehanna, the Juniata, and their numerous tributary streams, by securing to them a cheap water carriage of Gypsum, now an essential in agriculture, and for that indispensable necessary of life, salt; another great advantage would be the facility and cheapness with which the iron of Centre, Huntington, and other counties in Pennsylvania, could be transported to the Lake country, where nature has denied that most valuable metal. These very obvious advantages to our constituents will, I flatter myself, induce a liberal legislature to aid, by a subscription for stock, a company authorized by a law of New-York to cut a canal from the head of Seneca Lake to the Chemung, a branch of Tioga, which empties into the north east branch of the Susquehanna; a memorial on the subject and a letter containing information which may facilitate inquiry, I take the liberty herewith to present.

That our judiciary system has not attained that perfection essential to a prompt and faithful administration of justice, is a truth generally acknowledged and by many felt. I have to a former legislature hazarded the opinion that the evils complained of are not so inherent in the system as they are consequences resulting from the practice under it. By the official reports of the prothonotaries of the several counties, it is ascertained that in most of the counties double, and in some more than four times as many suits at law are finally disposed of by arbitration as are determined by jury trial. In one of the western counties thirty-three causes were finally disposed of under the arbitration system in one year, during which term it does not appear that one suit was tried by a jury. These facts incontestably prove that insufficient as may be our system of jurisprudence, yet it cannot with truth be ascribed to its defects, that in Pennsylvania justice by jury trial is not administered "without sale, denial or delay." The experience and observation of a life principally spent in public stations, convince me that so long as the

chambers of counsellors are beset by clients in term time, frequently until 10 o'clock in the day, for the purpose of preparing for the trial causes then on the trial list, and that in consequence of such and other indulgencies by the judges, not more than four or five hours of the day are devoted to business in the court room; and so long as the laudable practice of determining every cause without adjournment is not adopted by the courts, or enforced by the legislature, so long shall we be compelled to witness an entire term taken up in the trial of a single, perhaps unimportant cause; and short sessions and long adjournments will render a dead letter the constitutional injunction which has been quoted. In addition to the suggestions made on this important subject to the last legislature, it is now submitted whether some provision ought not to be made to guard against the frauds and injustice too often consequent on the manner in which mortgages are given, and the length of time they are kept without being put upon record, to the injury of innocent purchasers and creditors who may obtain judgments subsequent to the execution, though previous to the recording of the mortgage. The practice of insolvent debtors making assignments, excluding all those of their creditors from any share of the property of the insolvent who do not agree to the terms dictated in the assignment before a given time, is believed to be pregnant with injustice. Some legal regulation on this subject is loudly called for.

It is held by some of our courts of law that the amount of a judgment, obtained amicably before a justice of the peace for a sum exceeding 100 dollars, and subsequently entered in the office of the prothonotary, agreeably to and under a special provision of the act entitled "An act to amend and consolidate with its supplements, the act entitled an act for the recovery of debts and demands not exceeding 100 dollars, before a justice of the peace, and for the election of constables, and for other purposes," cannot be recovered; nor can the judgment be revived by any process of the court, when the period approaches at which it would cease to be a lien on the real estate of the defendants. Believing that, under this construction of the law, the object contemplated by the legislature is not attained, I would recommend such an amendment of the law as would make a justice's judgment, when filed and entered according to law, have all the attributes, force and effect, and to be proceeded upon as if the judgment had been originally obtained before the court of common pleas.

A knowledge of cases of hardship and cruelty induces me to solicit legislative interposition in behalf of the unfortunate and unprotected wife and children of the confirmed drunkard. The demoralizing, depopulating, and I regret to say, increasing vice of drunkenness, would, in my judgment, be checked by a classification of taverns, by raising the price for licensing such as are useful and necessary, and by preventing the granting of licences to houses not necessary for the accommodation of travellers or the inhabitants of the vicinage, and whose only customers are the drunkard and his vicious associates. I reiterate with increased anxiety the wish that seduction be punished as a criminal offence.

The frequency of oaths, and the levity with which they are commonly administered on occasions trifling and unnecessary, beget indifference

and irreverence for the most awful appeal which the creature can make to his Creator. This has not only a most pernicious influence upon morals and the order of society generally, but causes the commission of numerous injuries by perjury. This abomination in our land it is feared will increase whilst oaths are uselessly multiplied, and so long as the distinction between merely moral and constructively legal perjuries shield the perjured against prosecution and deserved punishment. Reason, in which our laws are said to be founded, has not like vices and crimes degrees or subdivisions. Like its divine author it is an eternal and unchangeable unit. As it is so eminently desirable, let us in our polity, as nearly as human nature is capable of, conform to this immutable divine law. Let us endeavour to restore to proper consideration this most solemn transaction between man and his God. Would not the attainment of this important object be promoted by prohibiting magistrates from administering oaths in cases neither authorized nor required by law, where no penalty is incurred by swearing, however falsely and wickedly; and by inflicting the punishment of corrupt perjury on wilful deviations from truth in judicial investigations on matters even immaterial to the issue trying. And might not traverse jurors at the commencement of each court (as is uniformly practised with grand jurors) be sworn generally for the faithful performance of their duty and the trial of all issues which should be submitted to them—to diminish the frequency of oaths will add to their solemnity and increase the weight of their obligation on the conscience. Indeed such is the baneful effect of the present prostitution of oaths that it may merit consideration whether every citizen on his first appearance before a court of civil or criminal jurisprudence should not be sworn generally to perform with fidelity during his residence in the state the several and various duties that are or may by law be constitutionally imposed on members of the community. And to impress the public mind with the sanctity of oaths, to purify the administration of justice, to facilitate judicial inquiries, and to remove a chief cause of corruption of the morals of the community, all perjuries committed with intent to do wrong ought promptly and severely to be punished.

The many laws which for the furtherance of justice have been passed by a succession of legislatures, confirming in special cases, conveyances made by aliens for lands by them sold to citizens, has suggested the idea of removing generally by law all disabilities in the former proprietor by reason of alienage, and placing the individual claimant under an alien on ground similar to the commonwealth under the law of escheats.

This occasion is embraced to submit to the legislature a communication made to the governor by Mr. Jeremy Bentham, of London, on the subject of public law, which, though dated 14th July, 1814, was not received until after the adjournment of the late legislature. As this philanthropic communication arose out of suggestions of our esteemed fellow citizen Albert Gallatin; his letter to the governor and Mr. Bentham's are herewith submitted, and also a letter from the governor, and other papers connected with this highly interesting subject. The legislature will determine whether, under the circumstance of our as yet unconsolidated systems of civil and criminal polity, we can in the prosecution of this important work be benefitted by the labours of the benevolent Mr. Bentham.

Some of the obstacles that present themselves to the introduction of that system of general education, commanded by the constitution, would probably be obviated, if a mode were provided by law, as well for laying off the several counties into school districts, as for ascertaining also the qualifications of school-masters, and by paying out of the State treasury a small salary to those who are approved and faithfully discharge their duties. This would excite to emulation, command adequate talents, and exclude mere pretenders to the science of teaching.

Many and too fruitless have been the efforts made towards a perfect organization and disciplining of the militia, I am of opinion, to make an efficient national force, it ought to be organized, armed and disciplined, under the authority of Congress. The constitution of the United States vests this right in the legislature of the Union, and their exercise of it would probably secure a more energetic, and certainly a more uniform, system than can be hoped from the legislatures of the several States. If I might hazard an opinion, founded on some experience, I would pronounce our present militia law injurious to the service, from its legislating too much. There is in it an unimportant minuteness of detail which might, with advantage, be left to the sound discretion of the officer. It is also very diffuse, and contains so many apparent contradictions, inconsistencies, and clashing of authority, that its various provisions can neither be distinctly embraced, reconciled nor carried into effect.

This attempt to convert every man under a certain age into a soldier, is demonstrably futile. The ambition and military pride essential to a soldier, is only to be found among the young and vigorous; and such materials, formed into select corps, well appointed and equipped, would constitute the pride and strength, the safety and glory of our country. These troops, in case of necessity, as was honourably demonstrated by our youth during the late war, would promptly march to meet the enemy, at the most exposed and distant points. Such ardour and alacrity are not to be expected from men settled in business, and advanced in life. They have imposed upon them the high and binding obligations of husband and father; these and their pecuniary transactions, locate them to a spot from which they depart with the utmost reluctance. This description of men should be enrolled, officered, and organized, and might be called out in classes, or otherwise, when danger was imminent, or the select corps unequal to emergency of the times. To muster this force one day in the year, would accomplish all the objects ever likely to be acquired by training the great body of the people. The other days, now worse than uselessly spent on parade, would be employed in adding to the wealth of the nation, and a reasonable commutation would, by the men thus excused from military duty, be willingly paid. The money thus raised would go far to remunerate the select committee for the time by them necessarily spent in acquiring the military art, and in meeting the expenses incidental to providing uniform clothing, so essential to inspire the soldier with respect for himself, his comrades, and the profession. Remuneration, and any other exemptions or privileges which might be deemed advisable, should be appropriated to those only who should faithfully perform their duties as citizen soldiers for a given time.

The law directing the erection of arsenals has

been partially executed. The sum appropriated was found more than sufficient to erect buildings conformably to the act of assembly. The arsenal at Harrisburg is nearly completed; it will contain on the ground floor 16 pieces of ordnance mounted on their carriages, and a large quantity of small arms, military stores, and camp equipage. The structure combines safety, strength, utility, and neatness. A contract has been made for building another arsenal at Meadville. From the want of these materials which require time to prepare, and are essential, it cannot be completed before next summer. I am gratified at being able to state, that I am advised, that the State arsenal at Philadelphia and the ordnance, small arms and other state property in it, are in excellent order.

Building materials of the best quality for the contemplated State capitol, have been purchased out of the appropriation of 50,000 dollars made for the purpose. The report of the finances of the State, showing, on the 30th day of November last, an unexpended balance in the treasury of \$ 276,664 18, presents means adequate to an immediate prosecution of this desirable and necessary work.

Three plans for the State capitol have been presented, and are herewith submitted for consideration. Gratifying as is the exposition of our finances, yet it must be borne in mind that the last legislature appropriated, for various useful public improvements, about \$ 270,000, not much of which has yet been paid: an expectation, however, is entertained that a considerable portion of the remainder will be called for the ensuing spring and summer.

In conformity to the act directing the sale of the state house and the state house square in the city of Philadelphia, a contract has been made for the sale thereof to the corporation of said city, for certain purposes in the act mentioned, for a sum of 70,000 dollars, to be paid into the State treasury as the law directs; a copy of the contract and of the correspondence had on the subject, is herewith laid before you.

Having, in discharge of the obligations imposed by the constitution, given the general assembly information of the state of the commonwealth, and recommended such measures as, in my opinion, will promote the general good; it remains for me to add, that it will give me the purest pleasure to co-operate with you in the adoption of all measures calculated to secure and perpetuate the happiness, the rights, and the privileges of our constituents.

SIMON SNIDER.

Harrisburg, 5th Dec. 1816.

NEW-ORLEANS, NOV. 6.

NAVAL COURT MARTIAL.

Through the politeness of the judge advocate, we have to day the sincere pleasure of laying before our readers the sentence of the court martial, lately held on lieutenant commandant Thomas S. Cunningham, of the United States schooner Firebrand. Lieutenant Cunningham did not require this testimony of his gallant brethren to place him high in the estimation of the people of New-Orleans, by whom he has been long known and deservedly respected.—*Louisiana Gaz.*

"The court being now cleared, took into mature consideration the evidence on the part of the prosecution, as also that introduced by the accused; and after due deliberation thereupon, the court

pronounce lieutenant commandant Thomas S. Cunningham *not guilty* of a breach of the 6th section of the act for the better government of the United States' navy, or any part thereof; and the court do now, *unanimously, honourably acquit* lieutenant commandant Thomas S. Cunningham, and free him from any, the slightest imputation of impropriety of conduct during his whole cruise, commencing on the 13th August, and ending on the 7th September of the present year, and particularly on the 27th of August in the rencontre with the Spanish ship Diana, and brig Cassador; the court are in justice bound to the feelings of this injured officer, to state, that his conduct throughout the whole affair with this overwhelming force, has been highly honourable to himself and to the flag under which he served; nor can the court refrain from observing, that the unexpected and dastardly attack made by his Catholic majesty's ship Diana, and brig Cassador, has proved an unparalleled, unjustifiable and unprovoked insult and outrage upon the flag of the United States. The court now request that the sword be restored to this officer, from whom it has unjustly and without cause been taken.

B. V. HOFFMAN,
I. McKEEVER,
CHARLES E. CRAWLY,
G. HAMERSLY,
W. A. WEAVER.

JOHN NICHOLSON, Judge Advocate.
New-Orleans, Nov 2, 1816.

The commanding officer feels great satisfaction in confirming the full and honourable acquittal thus pronounced by the court martial, before which lieutenant commandant Thomas S. Cunningham has been arraigned, and which, while it places his conduct in a highly creditable and honourable point of view, also reflects honour on the court. The sentence of the court martial, of which lieutenant commandant B. V. Hoffman is president, being thus confirmed, said court is hereby dissolved, and lieutenant commandant Cunningham will re-assume the command of the United States schooner Firebrand.

DANIEL T. PATTERSON,
Commanding U. S. Naval Forces,
New-Orleans Station.

New-Orleans, Nov. 8.

ANCIENT FORTIFICATIONS.

The following interesting description of the remains of ancient fortifications which are still visible near Fort Hawkins, (Ga.) is given in a letter from a gentleman of that place.

Fort Hawkins consists of a stockade work of about three fourths of an acre, with two block-houses, calculated for defence against Indians; it is situated on an eminence about one mile from the Ocmulgee river, abounds with good water, and, I believe, is the most healthy spot in this part of the country.

There are several relics of human industry in the vicinity of this post, which show evidently that it has been inhabited by a people, of whom neither we nor the aborigines have any knowledge. These remains are still so visible as not to admit of the slightest doubt of their being otherwise than the effect of art. From the magnitude of their works, vast numbers must have been employed to complete them; and, to all appearances, must have been planned by men skilled in the art of war.

In the vicinity of the fort are several mounds, the largest of which are nearly a hundred feet in height, and contains about three fourths of an acre of level earth on its summit. There are others of of nearly equal basis, but much inferior in height; also many other smaller ones, say from twenty to a hundred feet base, and from a third to half the height of the largest: the smaller ones appear to have been finished, that is, drawn to a point. What were their intentions in making these are left to us to conjecture: it is not probable, however, from their location and form, that they were intended for defensive purposes, although the greatest part and most important of them have been surrounded by a ditch evidently designed for defence; in some parts, where the soil is given to sand, it is scarcely discernible; but in a different soil, if it were not for the large oaks on its banks, one might justly believe it had not been half a century in existence; from this part we are to form our ideas of its original dimension; which must have been at least twenty feet wide and ten in depth, surrounding upwards of a hundred acres of rich land, with apparent windings and angles suited for defence.

But, Sir, what is still more interesting, is the remains of a stupendous military work, about six miles south-east from this post. There is a ridge of land that continues for some miles in a southerly direction, losing its width as it gains in height, and ultimately terminates in a narrow cliff of rocks, forming an abrupt precipice, several hundred feet above the level of the country south and west of it, which is so nearly level that the eye is uninterrupted. On the summit and near the point of this ridge, are the remains of a fortification, encompassing about forty acres, which has, without the smallest doubt, been constructed by a warlike people, as appears from the judicious selection of ground, and the strength and form of the works, around the whole of which a parapet of immense strength has been formed; the curtains and bastions are yet perfectly visible, a great proportion of which is composed of stone; the bastions, thirty-four in number, are judiciously arranged on that part of the line most assailable from the easy ascent of the hill. They are all of the same size, except those of the northernmost corners, which are much larger. The intended distance of the bastions is about ninety feet, which holds good where the ground is regular: in some parts, however, they are nearer, in others they have not been required.

The enclosure is oblong—perhaps its greatest breadth is about 400 yards; it has had three covered ways or outlets, one on each side, and one at the north end. On the east side, and opposite the centre of the declivity of the hill, is an excellent spring, which has also been enclosed by as strong a work as the ground would admit: in the making of which, below the spring, has been formed a pool immediately opposite the spring, and inside the fortification, is a reservoir for water, sunk many feet below the common surface, occupying about half an acre of ground, which, no doubt, was intended to receive such supply from the spring as the rains or its natural resources did not afford. At the north and south extremes are floors made of tempered clay, of circular form, about forty feet in diameter, and four feet below the common level; this floor is now covered with soil to the depth of eight or ten inches, but in digging in any part they are found to become completely level, and about two or three inches in thickness. Near

the southern extremity is the highest part of the enclosed ground which has been formed in a level square of about one acre.

[*Lurora.*]

EXTINCTION OF FIRE, &c.

London, Sept. 7.

Yesterday week, at Woolwich Barracks, in the presence of a committee appointed by the Board of Ordnance and Admiralty, captain Manby stated, that he had no idea of pecuniary gain; he should take no patent for what he had done; and he wished it to be known, that he disavowed all claim to invention. The committee then inspected the portable machine; the captain showed that it could be instantly applied (as it might be kept ready loaded) to a fire which was so situated that a common fire engine would be of no service; for instance, he said, in the back apartments of a house, or under the deck of a vessel. He explained the nature of the fluid which the machine was charged with; which consists of lime, potash, and a certain quantity of water; which might be made in two minutes; and on board a ship a cask of it might always be in readiness, besides the machine being charged with it.

To show to the committee the extraordinary effects of the anti-phlogistic fluid, he immersed in it a quantity of hemp, canvas, and deal wood; which are the most combustible materials used in a dock yard; he also immersed the same materials in common water, and applied a certain heat to each: those which had been dipped in the anti-phlogistic fluid would not burn, and those dipped in common water blazed immediately.

The captain then exhibited the means he had of rescuing persons from danger, where they were so situated, being surrounded by fire, that the only means of escaping from the element was through the windows, or from the tops of the houses. He showed several plans, embracing every situation in which a person might be placed at such a time. All the apparatus, with 15 of the portable machines, cylinders, might be, by his plan, fixed upon a light cart, and two men, or one horse, could draw them with ease. One of the inventions was much admired by the committee, which the captain tried, by shooting a cord from a pistol, one end of which would go over a house, and the person in distress could draw the rope to the window; at the other end was fastened a glazier's horse, such as they clean the outside of windows with, which are at a distance from the ground. Persons may draw it up, and fasten themselves to the rope by a sliding noose round the waist, and the rope being fastened to a pulley, the persons below may assist those in distress gradually down, without danger.

The captain produced a plan of communication from a house on fire to the next house, by a kind of railing, with hooks to clip each window frame; and also an elastic sheet, which, being held by two men, the person in distress might leap into it without any danger of receiving hurt by it. The fifteen loaded machines would be sufficient to extinguish any fire from its immediate application; and the contents of them would be equal to three tons of water; and he humbly hoped and believed that the day was not far distant when every parish in the metropolis would be furnished with one of the carriages complete.

M. Talleyrand Perigord.—According to an article in the *Edinburgh Review*, this extraordinary

character was born in the year 1754. He was the eldest son of a branch of the house of Perigord. He was born club footed, and on account of this deformity he was deprived of his birth-right. And for the same strange reason, he was never suffered to enjoy, even in infancy, the comforts of living in his father's family, under whose roof he never slept: and he was forced into the ecclesiastical profession, in opposition to his own wishes. He studied at the Sorbonne at the same time with Abbe Sieyes; and he was then remarked only as a silent and haughty young man, who passed all his time among his books. He was not promoted till the end of the year 1788 or 1789. It was then that he published a famous address to the clergy, which first announced his talents to the world, and raised him under the patronage of Louis XVI to be Bishop of Autun. The irreparable injustice that Talleyrand met with in being treated as an outcast by his father, is thought to have given him the strong bias to intrigue and cunning. *Con. Courant.*

FROM SOUTH AMERICA.

Translated from the Freeman's Journal.

FOURTH BULLETIN OF THE CENTRAL ARMY.

The junction of the two divisions of generals Monagas and Sarasa being accomplished, conformably to the orders of the commander in chief, the army commenced its march from the head quarters at St. Diego Cabrutica, the 25th August, in the morning, in the direction of Aragua. The object of the commander in chief was to take possession of that important position before the forces that the enemy was collecting in the plains of Caracas could occupy it. It was necessary to make most rapid marches; but such was the rigor of the season that any other army less animated than ours with the enthusiasm of liberty, would have been detained. Copious and continued rains, impetuous torrents, immense rivers, and inundated plains, obstacles of every description, that could only be vanquished by republican constancy, were encountered at every step in our march. Notwithstanding, we arrived the 3d inst. at Guatacaro, where obtaining information of the movements of the army of the enemy under the command of Morales, the commander in chief determined to march back (contramarchon) the 4th, upon those forces to prevent their junction with those of Aragua, whose commander thought proper to accelerate our plan precipitately, under the delusion that we were flying.

Our army was encamped on the hill of the Alacran, on the morning of the 6th, when the outposts announced they had discovered the enemy on the heights of the Roble. Our army was formed in order of battle in their position, the cavalry of general Monagas occupying the right, the infantry the centre, under the command of lieutenant-col. Pedro Leon Torres, with two picquets of Indian bowmen, commanded by their chiefs, Manauere and Tupepe, and on the left the cavalry of gen. Zaraza; the reserve, commanded by brevet-col. Ricardo Meza, formed in column the rear guard.

At 11 A. M. the enemy began to make his appearance on the hill in our front with columns of his cavalry, which were reconnoitred on our right by gen. Menagas, and on our left by col. Infante.

A party of the enemy's light troops took possession of a wood in front of our right, and the rest of his columns followed, forming his line, supported on the same wood, with another in his rear;

his infantry occupying the centre, covered by Indian archers, and the wings with large bodies of cavalry: in the centre they had a 4 pounder.

A party of the enemy's light troops attempted to take possession of an intermediate small wood between his left and our right, and ours opposing him, the action commenced. The commander in chief then ordered the whole line to move forward, which was effected in the best order—the enemy reinforced his light troops in the woods, and the same was done under a smart fire on both sides, whilst our line descended from the hill with the greatest coolness, the enemy occupying his advantageous position.

On our arrival at the wood the enemy made a general discharge, which was returned by our line, continuing its march rapidly. The valiant squadron having at its head gen. Zaraza, fell upon the cavalry on the enemy's right, which he caused to retire to the rear of his infantry, while the commander in chief taking the colours of the battalion, (de Barlovento) put himself at the head of the infantry, commanding them to charge with the bayonet, precipitated himself into the enemy's line. Gen. Monagas charged on the left; the infantry of the reserve joined the line in this movement, and the cavalry on our right charged on the enemy's left with such impetuosity that the battle was decided in a few minutes in the complete destruction of the enemy.

The enemy left more than 500 killed on the field, amongst whom was captain Quixada of the king's battalion, with nearly all its officers. We took 300 prisoners, 550 muskets, a large quantity of lances, ammunition chests, one colour, one field piece, and many horses. He was pursued with perseverance in every direction, and the same night the whole of our army arrived at Chaparro.

Our loss consisted of 4 killed, amongst whom was a cornet of the gallant squadron, and about 40 wounded, amongst whom were 12 officers of various ranks. In no action was their intrepidity and good order more conspicuous: soldiers, officers, chiefs and generals, all were animated with the same spirit, and to cite any in particular would be doing an injury to the rest.

Head quarters at Aragua, Sep. 8, 1816.

CARLOS SOUBLETT, Maj. Gen.

GENERAL ORDER.

Gregor McGregor, general of brigade of the republican army of Venezuela, and gen. in chief of the army of the centre, to the victors of the Alacran:

Soldiers! You have just gained a signal and memorable victory, which will carry terror amongst your enemies, and re-animate the confidence of your oppressed brothers. The insolent army no longer exists that tyrannized over these provinces, not by the superiority of its valor, but by that of its numbers. The whole of its infantry has perished. The miserable remains of its cavalry runs dispersed in the mountains, and even its chief, who, in the delirium of his pride, dared to despise you, flies frightened to hide himself in the woods of Aragua. Soldiers of liberty! already the tyrants of Venezuela, with their wild and infamous partizans, tremble at your name; let us exterminate them at once, that the republic may rise majestic and terrible, supported on your arms and sustained by your bayonets. Another victory, easier for you to gain than that of yesterday, will for ever seal your

glory, and insure your happiness, and your illustrious names will be recorded in history.

Head quarters at Chaparro, the 7th September, 1816.

(Signed) GREGOR MCGREGOR.

At a meeting of delegates from fifteen counties in the Mississippi territory, held at Ford's on Pearl river, on the fourth Monday of October, it was resolved that a memorial should be prepared and forwarded to congress, praying the admission of the said territory into the union as a state, *with its present limits*. Against this resolution the delegates from four of the counties, to wit: Marion, Pike, Lawrence and Hancock, entered a protest. The following is a list of the delegates:

Jefferson—C. Mead, J. E. Davis.

Wilkinson—D. Williams, Jr.

Mobile—Saml. H. Garrow.

Jackson—Sterling Dupree.

Monroe—Saml. Dale.

Baldwin—H. B. Slade.

Washington—B. S. Smoot.

Greene—J. J. H. Morris.

Clark—J. F. Creagh.

Wayne—James Patton.

Franklin—B. E. Chaney, J. F. Witherspoon.

Marion—George H. Nixon.

Pike—David Dickson, Jr.

Lawrence—H. Runnels.

Hancock—Thomas Anderson.

NATIONAL LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Friday, Dec. 6.

Unchartered Banks—Mr. Taylor, of Virginia, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee for the District of Columbia be instructed to inquire into the expediency of prohibiting by law the establishment of unchartered bank companies, and the circulation of the notes of such companies within the District.

Indigent Soldiers—Mr. Harrison, of Ohio, submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the military committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the relief of such of the officers and soldiers, who, having served faithfully in the armies of the United States, are now in distressed circumstances, and who, not having received wounds or disabilities, whilst in actual service, are excluded from the benefits of the pension law; and that the said committee report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. H. declined offering any remarks on this subject at present. Mr. Taylor objected to the resolution, on the ground that it assumed the fact that further provision was necessary. The motion was agreed to without a division.

Invalids and Military Academies—On motion of Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky,

Resolved, That the committee on military affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of organizing a corps of invalids, and of establishing additional military academies.

Message from the President.

To the Senate and House of

Representatives of the United States,

The 9th section of the act passed at the last session of Congress, "to authorize the payment for property lost, captured, or destroyed by the enemy while in the military service of the United States, and for other purposes," having received a con-

struction giving to it a scope of great and uncertain extent, I thought it proper that the proceedings relating to claims under that part of the act should be suspended, until Congress should have an opportunity of defining, more precisely, the cases contemplated by them. With that view I now recommend the subject to their consideration. They will have an opportunity, at the same time, of considering how far other provisions of the act may be rendered more clear and precise in their import.

JAMES MADISON.

Dec. 6, 1816.

The message was referred to the committee on claims.

Commissioner of Claims—Mr. Forsyth submitted the three following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby requested to lay before this House the proceedings of the commissioner appointed under the act of the last session, entitled "An act to authorize the payment for property lost, captured, and destroyed whilst in the service of the U. States, and for other purposes."

2. *Resolved*, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby requested to order the further execution of the said act to be suspended, until the subject be disposed of by this House.

3. *Resolved*, That the President be, and he is hereby requested, to inform this House whether the judgments made by the commissioners under the said act have been paid by the treasury, and if they have been paid, by what authority, and out of what fund.

They were objected to by Mr. Williams of N. Carolina as being a substitute for a motion he had offered the day before. The objection was overruled by the Speaker.

Mr. Forsyth defended them; because the first was a matter of course—the second resulted from information communicated by a special message of the President, that the execution of part of the act had been suspended. The last resolution arose in consequence of his having been informed that the commissioner's judgments had been paid at the Treasury without the authority of an act of appropriation.

Mr. Yancey objected to the resolutions on the ground that the consideration of the subject belonged to the committee on expenditures.

Mr. Williams, of North Carolina, then called up his motion of yesterday on the same subject, which was also agreed to without division.

The resolution from the Senate in form of a joint resolution, declaring the admission of the State of Indiana into the Union, was received, twice read, and referred to the committee of the whole House on the state of the Union.

The constitution was ordered to be printed; and the House adjourned.

Monday, Dec. 9.—No session.

Tuesday, Dec. 10.—A letter from Mr. Graham, acting secretary of war, was laid before the House, relative to a road on the Tennessee river, through the Chickasaw nation.

Also, a report of the committee of elections, recognizing the election of J. Carr, B. Adams, A. S. Clarke, D. Avery, Geo. Peter, P. Little, T. Fletcher, W. H. Harrison, Wm. Hendricks, and N. Pope.

A bill was reported, by Mr. Yancey, for the relief of N. Williams; twice read, and committed.

Mr. Forsyth, of Georgia, made report of having laid before the President, the resolution relative to the commissioner of claims.

Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, (committee on military affairs) reported a bill for the organization of a corps of invalids.

The bill reported for the establishment of a National University was twice read and committed—[when completed we shall publish it. Report of the committee, see page 244.]

Letters from J. Meigs, commissioner of the general land office were delivered, transmitting reports to his department, from the territories of Louisiana and Missouri.

Mr. Pickens, of North Carolina, made the following proposition for a constitutional amendment:

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring therein, That the following amendment to the constitution of the United States be proposed to the legislatures of the several States, which, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the said States, shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as a part of the said constitution.

For the purpose of choosing of Representatives in the Congress of the United States, each State shall be divided, by its legislature, into a number of districts, equal to the number of Representatives to which the State may be entitled.

Each district shall contain, as nearly as may be, equal numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to serve for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other persons.

In each district the qualified voters shall elect one Representative.

For the purpose of choosing electors of President and Vice-President of the United States, each State shall be divided by its legislature into a number of districts, equal to the number of electors to which the State may be entitled. Each district shall contain, as nearly as may be, equal numbers; which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to serve for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other persons. In each district, the persons qualified to vote for Representatives in the Congress of the United States, shall choose one elector. The legislature of each State shall have power to regulate the manner of holding elections and making returns of the electors chosen. In case all the electors shall not meet at the time and place appointed for giving their votes, a majority of the electors met shall have power, and forthwith shall proceed to supply the vacancy.

A division of the State into districts for choosing Representatives in the Congress of the United States, and into districts for choosing electors of President and Vice-President of the United States shall take place as soon as conveniently may be, after each enumeration and apportionment of Representatives shall be made, which districts shall remain unaltered until after the succeeding enumeration and apportionment of Representatives.

Wednesday, Dec. 11.—The resolution was read a second time and referred to a committee of the whole.

Mr. Hopkinson moved for leave of absence to be granted to Mr. Sargeant, in order to enable him to depart for Europe. Objected to by Messrs. Nelson, Forsyth and Southard, on the ground that members had no right to accept other offices and

abandon their duties in the house. Others contended that it was only a question between him and his constituents. The motion was then varied and the question taken—lost, 81 against, 74 for it.

Some debate took place on the motion of Mr. Scott of Missouri, relative to a provision for adjusting the land claims in that Territory. The House refused to consider the subject.

A resolution was offered by Mr. Nelson, of Virginia, and argued upon, concerning a provision for the widows and orphans of those militia who died on their return from the service of the United States. Motion to instruct the military committee on the subject agreed to.

Thursday, Dec. 12.—A bill was reported "to authorize the settlement and payment of certain claims for the services of militia," by Mr. Wright of Virginia, from the committee on that subject.

Mr. Johnson of Kentucky (military committee) reported a bill to establish three additional military academies. One in this district, one at Mount Dearborn, South Carolina, and one at Newport, Kentucky, at the mouth of the Licking river.

Mr. Condict (of a select committee) reported a bill supplementary to the one for the encouragement of vaccination.

Mr. Wilde of Georgia offered a resolution for regulations relative to seamen engaged in the merchant service, which was agreed to.

Committee instructed concerning the State road of Tennessee.

A resolution was offered by Mr. Bennet for repealing or modifying the act laying duties on spirituous liquors, wines, &c. This was objected to by Mr. Lowndes of South Carolina, but agreed to by the House.

The House proceeded to consider the motion of Mr. Wendover, of New-York, for changing the flag of the United States. The object of his proposition was to add two stars and two stripes for the two States that had lately been added to the Union. Mr. Robertson suggested the adoption of a law for such alteration, and all future ones. Mr. Taylor was for reducing the flag to the original thirteen stars and stripes, to render it more distinguishable at a distance. Mr. Wendover's motion was agreed to.

Mr. Atherton, of New-Hampshire, moved to alter the constitution by adding to it these words, "The Congress shall have power to establish a NATIONAL UNIVERSITY." Consideration of the subject rejected.—86 to 54.

A motion was made by Mr. Nelson, of Virginia, instructing a committee to report a law for commutating soldiers' bounty land for money.

Some debate took place on a motion of Mr. Wright, of Maryland, about instructing the committee of ways and means for a repeal of the carriage tax, &c. Adjourned.

Extract of a Letter received yesterday by a sincere friend to the sacred cause of humanity.

"By letters which I have just received from the government of Buenos Ayres, I am happy to find the political state of that beautiful country seems to wear even a more favourable aspect than when I left it. San Martin, general of the troops in Mendoza, was already far advanced in his preparations for the invasion of Chili the present

Spring. The Patriot army of Peru (which I enabled them to equip) was on its march, abundantly provided with every necessary; so that I am now more sanguine than ever that the whole of the provinces north and south of the line will be soon liberated from the blasphemous and debasing despotism of the wretched Ferdinand."

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC SUMMARY.

FOREIGN.

The last English papers state that the apprehension of scarcity had subsided. The London Courier contradicts the reports that had been circulated about disturbances in Staffordshire, and at Swansea and Brecon.

"It is intimated that the emperor of Russia will not receive Mr. Pinkney as minister from the United States, on account of his having been sent to Naples previously. The sovereign of an empire, he thinks, ought not to be coupled in a mission with a petty kingdom; and he the last attended to." *Boston Gaz.*

Commercial letters from France are said to mention that the ministers of Louis XVIII had resolved to make a fresh attempt to negotiate for the sovereignty of St. Domingo: in consequence of which new commissioners have sailed in a private manner from a small port in the neighbourhood of Brest in an unarmed vessel. They go direct to Petion's dominions, and it is understood that their tone will not be so high as that of their predecessors.

There are said to exist at present in France strong appearances of approaching famine and distress, though the newspapers speak of the prosperity of trade, and call the harvest tolerable. In Paris the populace are said to have become clamorous, and to make it necessary for the police to employ the military for the preservation of order.

General Lallemand had received orders from the Porte to quit the Ottoman dominions.

Algiers is said to be rising rapidly from its ruins, and that in a short time the effects of the late bombardment will be no longer visible. The dey had not yet finished the business of cutting off heads.

It is noticed, in a Copenhagen journal of Sept. 24, that four Americans had been arrested, who appear to be part of the mutinous, murderous crew of the Baltimore schooner *Plattsburg*. A considerable sum of money was found with them, and two of them had bought cargoes to trade in the Baltic.

A letter from Naples, of the 29th August, states that doctor D. Francesco Ambroso, of Ritonio, has discovered an indigenous opium, more perfect and efficacious than even that of Asia. Opium has been for many ages considered as an almost exclusive production of Asia. *London Paper.*

The Editor of the New-York National Advocate states that "the Jewish congregations in London, Amsterdam, Leghorn, and other places in Europe, keep up a constant correspondence with their brethren residing in the vicinity of the Holy Land; and it is not long since a communication was received in New-York from the Jews in Hebron near Jerusalem."

It appears by accounts received at Philadelphia that a battle has been fought on the 6th of September, between the patriot forces of the Carracas and the royalists, in which the latter were completely routed with the loss of 500 killed and

300 taken prisoners. The royalists, commanded by Morales, attacked the patriot army, encamped on the hill of Alacran, commanded by general M'Gregor. After one discharge, it appears that the royal party ran away: the loss on the patriotic side is computed at only 4 killed and 40 wounded.

DOMESTIC.

James P. Preston is chosen Governor of the State of Virginia by a large majority.

Charles Ridgely of Hampton is re-elected Governor of the State of Maryland.

General Jackson has ordered all white men from the lands of Cherokees who have no permit from the agent of the nation.

The fire that took place lately in New-York at Burling and Beckman slips caused several to be wounded by the falling of timber—destroyed from 200,000 to 300,000 dollars worth of property.

Some successful experiments in the culture of sugar cane have been made last Spring in North Carolina, near Wilmington.

The Trustees of the Pennsylvania University have chosen

Dr. THOMAS COOPER, late Professor of Chemistry in Dickinson College, to be Professor of Chemistry, as applied to the Arts.

Dr. WILLIAM P. C. BARTON, nephew of the late Professor, to be Professor of Botany.

Dr. CHARLES CALDWELL, to be Professor of Natural History.

The present amount of capital of the State Banks of Massachusetts is 12,885,000 dollars. The annual tax on this capital is 128,850 dollars. The committee of the legislature state, according to the returns of June last, the aggregate of income was sufficient to give the stockholders six dollars and twenty-seven cents for every hundred dollars per annum. *Bost. Adv.*

The sitting of the Senate, yesterday, was almost entirely occupied in balloting for the numerous committees they have determined to establish.

ALEX. C. HANSON is elected a Senator in Congress from Maryland, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of R. G. Harper.

The Virginia Legislature have finally passed a law to extend the time for commencing *specie* payments in the Banks of that State to the 1st of July next; provided said Banks commence the issuing of *specie* change on the 10th of January.

It is stated that an English merchant has advised his correspondent not to ship any flour unless purchased at \$9 per barrel. *Alexandria Gaz.*

Arrived at New London from Oporto, ship Deborah, Churchill, to John Morgan, Esq. of this city, with salt, wine, fruit, and \$12,000 in *specie*.

Major General GAIKES, of the army of the United States, and Gen. P. B. PORTER, one of the Commissioners under the treaty with G. Britain, are at present on a visit at the seat of government.

Singular instance of Female Heroism.—About two weeks since the wife of Mr. John Cobb of Providence, in this county, observed a wolf following some sheep directly towards the house in which they lived; and as her husband was absent from home, she immediately took down the rifle and approached the wolf, who stopped as she advanced. She leveled the piece at him, and snapped it three times in succession without effect. Being convinced that the rifle would not go off, she resolved upon another mode of attack, and immediately approached the wolf, who began to advance, and with the breech of the gun she struck him on the

head, when the breech broke off; not discouraged, however, at this accident, she kept the wolf at bay with the barrel, and called to her son (a boy of about ten years) to bring an axe; who did so; but as he approached the wolf made towards him, when he threw the axe at the wolf and retreated.

The wolf immediately turned, and again attacked the woman; who had in the mean time secured a club, with which she beat the wolf, and killed him, without receiving any injury.

Interesting to Millers.—At the late session of the circuit court of the United States a cause was tried and decided, involving a principle which has excited much anxiety in this and several other States. It was a suit brought by Oliver Evans against Eaton, for an infringement of his patent right, in using the hopper-boy. The defence taken was, that Evans was not the inventor of the hopper-boy—that it was invented by another person—and that, at most, Evans had but improved it.

This decision goes to destroy Mr. Evans's right to the hopper-boy. His other improvements on mill machinery, contained in his patent, was not the subject of this suit.

Improvement in Tanning.

Among the useful inventions daily made by our countrymen, perhaps a more useful one has not been published than one that has very recently been discovered by Mr. Edwards of Catskill, in the tanning of leather. By the process hitherto pursued, the usual time for tanning has been sixteen months. By the new discovery of Mr. Edwards, this is effected completely in four months without employing any new ingredients, and without any chemical preparation. But not only is there a saving in time and labour, and in bark of at least 10 per cent. on the most moderate calculation, but it is ascertained by experience, the best and only satisfactory test, that the leather thus tanned gains materially in weight—in quality is more firm and solid, and consequently will be more durable for every purpose. Mr. Edwards has obtained a patent for his invention. Any one desirous of further particulars are referred to Messrs. Cunningham and McCormick, No. 5, Ferry street.—*N. Y. E. Post.*

Long Speeches.—David Hartley, a member of the British Parliament in 1783, though destitute of any personal recommendations of manner, possessed some talent, with unsullied probity, added to indefatigable perseverance and labour. In parliament the intolerable length when increased by the dullness of his speeches, rendered him an absolute nuisance, even to his own friends. His rising always operated like a dinner bell. One day, that he had thus wearied out the patience of his audience, having nearly cleared a very full house, which was reduced from 300 to 80 persons, half asleep, just at the time when he was expected to close, he unexpectedly moved that the Riot Act should be read, as a document necessary to elucidate or to prove some of his foregoing assertions. Burke, who sat close by him, and who, wishing to speak to the question under discussion, had been bursting with impatience for more than an hour and a half! finding himself so cruelly disappointed, bounced up, exclaiming "the Riot Act! my dear friend, the Riot Act! to what purpose! don't you see that the mob is already completely dispersed?"

The Office of the *National Register* is removed to F street, four doors east of the Bank of the Metropolis.